

# ACACIA AFRICA

## CAPE GARDEN ROUTE – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code **CGR5**

**CAPE TOWN – CAPE TOWN**

**5 DAYS**

**Tour Starts – 08:00 pick up from your Cape Town hotel on day one**

### HIGHLIGHTS

Garden Route Game Lodge	Tsitsikamma National Park
'Big 5' sunset game drive	Plettenberg Bay
Robinson Pass	Knysna
Oudtshoorn	Buffeljagts Dam
Cango Caves	Hermanus
Cango Ostrich Farm	Wine Tasting
Canoeing in Wilderness NP	Stoney Point penguins
Bloukrans Bridge	



**Enjoy an affordable, fun- filled journey around the scenic garden route from crocodile farms and ostrich riding to walking in thick, coastal forests and visiting the world's highest bungy! Maybe even dive with great white sharks! This tour offers a great taste of all the region offers.**

### INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore, treat the following as a guide only.

**This tour is operated in association with a local operator. Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.**

**Duration:** 5 Days  
**Countries visited:** South Africa

#### DAY 1 Albertina, Garden Route Game Lodge Dx1 Guest Farm

Departing from Cape Town, we drive east, along the Atlantic coast to Albertina and the Garden Route Game Lodge, a private lodge where we enjoy a sunset game drive, hoping to spot animals such as giraffe, zebra, cheetah, impala and kudu as well as the Big 5 (elephant, buffalo, rhino, leopard and lion). Birdlife here includes heron, craned stork, egret and the comical secretary bird. After our drive we take dinner at the lodge, served in an open air boma and can enjoy a dip in a hot spring jacuzzi under the stars. We drive to a local guest farm outside Albertina for tonight's accommodation.

#### DAY 2 Robinson Pass, Oudtshoorn Bx1 Dx1 Hostel

This morning we head inland and drive over the spectacular Robinson Pass on the way to Oudtshoorn. Oudtshoorn is situated in the Klein Karoo (Little Karoo), an attractive region of hills and farmland where aloes and other similar succulents pepper the landscape. This is also ostrich country; the climate here perfect for the breeding of these huge birds. Arriving in Oudtshoorn we visit the beautiful Cango Caves, view cheetahs, crocodiles and other African wildlife at the Wildlife Ranch and maybe ride ostriches on our visit to a local ostrich farm!

**DAY 3**  
**Wilderness, Bloukrans Bridge, Tsitsikamma National Park, Storms River**  
Bx1  
Hostel

We leave Oudtshoorn this morning and head over the dramatic Outeniqua Mountains to the coast. Later this morning we arrive in Wilderness, an attractive town nestled between mountains and ocean, where we enjoy some canoeing in Wilderness National Park. As we paddle on the lagoon there's the potential to spot almost 200 species of birds here in this wild paradise. Heading on, we drive to Bloukrans Bridge, home to the highest bungee in the world. Jump if you dare! We then walk the trail to the hanging bridge over Storms River Mouth in nearby Tsitsikamma National Park. If lucky we may glimpse one of the rare Cape clawless otters that make this shoreline their home. We stay tonight at a backpackers lodge in Storms River Village.

**DAY 4**  
**Plettenberg Bay, Knysna, Swellendam**  
Bx1 Dx1  
Guest Farm

Between June and November it is common to see southern right whales migrating with their calves to the rich waters of the Atlantic, along the southern coast of Africa. In season, it is possible to take an optional whale and dolphin watching boat trip this morning, in the waters around beautiful Plettenberg Bay. After the boat trip, we turn back and drive west to Knysna, a pretty coastal town situated beside a huge inland lagoon where we can explore the Knysna Heads and the waterfront area known for its curio and artist's shops and oyster restaurants. This afternoon we follow the coast towards Albertina, where we visit an aloe factory, and then continue on to Buffeljags Dam near Swellendam where we stay at a comfortable farm, near the river. Those seeking an adrenaline rush may like to try the Buffeljags Dam Foefie Slide – at 210 metres, the longest zip wire in South Africa!

**DAY 5**  
**Cape Town**  
Bx1

Leaving Swellendam, we continue following the coast to Hermanus. Hermanus is a great little coastal town and a perfect point from which to see migrating whales, in season. While here we enjoy wine tasting at a local estate and there is the chance to take the optional activity of Shark Cage Diving with great white sharks off the coast. No scuba diving experience is necessary as these impressive mammals can also usually be seen from the surface or with the use of a mask and snorkel. We leave Hermanus this afternoon to complete our final leg of the journey, stopping at Stoney Point to see penguins and then enjoying the sweeping views of False Bay and Table Mountain in the late afternoon light as we approach our destination, Cape Town.

You will be dropped off at your hotel in central Cape Town in the late afternoon when the tour officially ends.

**Cape Town Extension**  
3 nights/4 days

Extend your stay in Cape Town before or after this tour with a three night/ four day package that includes a Cape of Good Hope and Peninsula tour. Contact Acacia, your agent or look online for more details on our **Cape Town City Stay**.

**TOUR INFORMATION**

***A great tour for those on a budget, looking for a short but comprehensive journey around the western cape with lots of variety and the chance to enjoy adrenaline activities along the way.***

**TOUR STYLE**

Adventure tour

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

All highlights, transport, accommodation, meals as indicated, services of drivers/ guide.

**WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport taxes & transfers, sleeping bag or sleep sheet for hostels, tips, drinks, laundry, optional activities & items of a personal nature.

**ACCOMMODATION**

Multi-share hostel room with share facilities (4 nts), A private room is possible with payment of an upgrade supplement. A guest house option is also available – please contact Acacia, your agent or look online for more details.

## TRANSPORT

Minibus

## OPERATOR

As this tour is run by a respected local tour operator, you will benefit from their extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm as well as helping Acacia support local businesses in Africa.

## TOUR PREPARATION

### BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Cape Town is well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

### JOINING INFORMATION

Meeting point in **Cape Town**: Pick up from your hotel in Cape Town

Tour start time: 08:00

Tour end point in **Cape Town**: Drop off at your hotel in Cape Town

Tour end time: 17:00

### EXTENDING YOUR STAY

If you wish to extend your stay in Cape Town additional accommodation can be booked, usually on a direct pay basis. Please ask Acacia or your agent for more details. If you would like a 3 night stay in Cape Town before of after your trip with airport transfer and a selection of daytrips include, take a look online or in our brochure, at our **Cape Town City Stay**.

### WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. For this tour you will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warm clothing for the evenings. Bring swimming things for pools and hot springs. From June to August it can be wet so a light rain jacket may be useful. It is also a good idea to purchase a money pouch / belt that is easily hidden. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport and airline tickets.

### VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
S. Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R

**C** = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, \* = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

### VISA REQUIRMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk) For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
S. Africa	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

### MONEY MATTERS

#### PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and internet cafes etc. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget £10-15 per day. Also keep cash for any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Currency** South Africa – South African Rand (ZAR)
- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in Rand or through a debit card. Money exchange facilities are available in Cape Town airport and city banks as well as most of the towns along the route.
- **ATM machines** are widely available in Cape Town and the garden route towns.

- **Credit cards** are widely accepted. Cash advances are possible from banks but extra charges may be made on your card, to use the service.
- **Travellers cheques** are becoming increasingly difficult to cash – bring only as emergency funds.

### TIPPING

You may like to give a small gratuity to any drivers/guides on your day excursions, for services rendered. This is completely at your own discretion.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (ZAR)	Activity	Price
Bungee jumping at Gourits Bridge	R180	Boat based whale & dolphin watching	R350
Bungee jumping at Bloukrans Bridge	R580	Foefie Slide – Swellendam	R60
Gliding (30 minutes)	R300	Shark Cage Diving	R1000

### INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

## Country Information - SOUTH AFRICA

### Facts

Capital: Pretoria (official), Bloemfontein (judicial), and Cape Town (legislative)  
 Size: 1 219 090 sq km / 470 693 sq miles  
 Population: 43,997,828 (Jun. 07)  
 Groups: African/Black, White (mainly of Afrikaner and British origin), Coloured, Indian/Asian  
 Languages: English, Afrikaans, Ndebele, Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi, Sotho, Tswana, Swati, Venda, Tsonga (all 11 are official languages)  
 Local time: GMT + 2  
 Seasons: Western Cape: warm (September-April), cold and wet (May-August); East coast: humid all year; Northern provinces: wet (September-April), dry (May-August)  
 Currency: 1 South African Rand = 100 Cents  
 Telephone: Country code 27, international access code 09  
 Electricity: 220 V / 230 V / 250 V / 50 Hz, the plug fits a 15A socket with three round pins

South Africa is a country rich in minerals, with abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery; a land of beauty with a social and political structure that is anything but! A country having three capitals - Pretoria the Administrative, Cape Town the Legislative, and Bloemfontein the Judicial. Having by far the most developed and sophisticated economy on the continent, South Africa is essential to many of the neighbouring countries as an avenue for exports, and a provider of electricity and high tech products. A good network of roads and an abundance of high quality camp sites (as well as beautiful scenery) makes travelling in and around South Africa an easy and very rewarding experience.

## Points of Interest

### Cape Town

Founded in 1666 as a place where trading ships going round the Cape of Good Hope could stock up, Cape Town today is **South Africa's tourist destination No.1**. It is one of the **most beautiful cities** in the world with plenty of sights and outdoor activities. The natural beauty of the place is defined by mountains (esp. famous Table Mountain) and sea (and not only one, it is here the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean meet).

The '**Mother City**' has also has one of the most diverse populations including descendants from such diverse people as Indonesian, Malay, French, Dutch, British & German settlers, the local Khoisan (Bushman & Hottentot) tribes and the Bantu tribes from the north. It is one of the most tolerant and relaxed cities in Africa.

Places of interest in and around Cape Town:

**Table Mountain** – Cape Town's trade mark towers 1086 metres above sea level and is accessible by cable car or by several trekking routes (Platteklip Gorge being the most frequented one).

**The Castle** – Cape Town's oldest remaining building.

**Bo-Kaap** – the old Malay quarter is a predominately Muslim area coined by Malay slaves who were brought in by the Dutch; take a walk among the colourful houses.

**Victoria & Albert (V&A) Waterfront** – this complex of shops, restaurants and bars attracts over 20 million visitors every year; it also has a massive oceanarium where you can dive with sharks and the (still working) port

**Robben Island** – 11 kilometres from the coast, this World Heritage Site features a former prison of Nelson Mandela where he spent 18 years.

**Company Gardens** – the remains of the original fruit and vegetable gardens to restock the ships, these gardens now host many interesting museums.

**Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens** – situated at the eastern side of Table Mountain, these gardens contain a wide variety of mostly indigenous flora with the mountain as a backdrop; in summer concerts are held here every Sunday afternoon.

**Beaches** – Cape Town has a great many beaches on both the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean: the 4 beaches at Clifton, Camps Bay and Bloubergstrand on the Atlantic and Muizenberg, Kalk Bay and Fishhoek on the Indian Ocean, to mention just a few.

**Townships** – the townships of Guguleu, Langa and Kayelitsha offer great insights into Cape Town's black communities.

**Cape Peninsula** – a day tour around the Cape Peninsula will lead you to Hout Bay Harbour with its Cape Fur Seal colony on Duiker Island, to Boulders Beach with its jackass penguins and to the Cape Point Nature Reserve where the south-western most point of Africa is to be found.

**Winelands** – the world-renowned wine region around Stellenbosch has some of the oldest and most beautiful wineries in South Africa. Visit the beautiful buildings and sample some excellent wines.

## Garden Route

Stretching **between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth**, this **most scenic stretch of coastline** is named after its wealth of forests. It is one of South Africa's most visited places as has plenty of attractions. It has also become a main destination for **adventure sports** with almost every place along the route offering a wide variety of sports possibilities.

Places of interest along the Garden Route:

**Hermanus** - also called the 'whale capital' since it offers the world's best land based whale watching, especially for the Southern Right Whale. Most whales come here between August and November

**Oudtshoorn** - the centre of the Klein Caroo and definitely the **ostrich capital of the world**. Due to a large demand of ostrich feathers at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a large ostrich industry started to boom here. Today, the ostriches are mainly bred for their meat and leather. One of the highlights here is to visit an ostrich farm where you can also ride one of these large birds. Other places of interest are the **Crocodile and Cheetahland** and the **Cango Caves** which are full of fascinating stalagmite and stalactite formations. Nearby is the spectacular **Swartberg Pass**. The most fun way to explore Oudtshoorn and its surroundings is on a mountain bike tour.

**Mossel Bay** – this coastal town is one of the first harbours visited by European sailors and a major holiday destination today

**George** – South Africa's sixth oldest town is located right in the middle between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth and therefore often called the capital of the Garden Route. The famous Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe train to Knysna departs from here

**Knysna** – a laid back resort on a scenic lagoon. Its most striking feature are the Knysna Heads between which the sea pours into the lagoon at the mouth of the Knysna River. It is also famous for oysters and artists

**Plettenberg Bay** – called 'Bahia Formosa' (beautiful bay) by the Portuguese explorers, 'Plett' is a fast developing holiday destination for well-heeled South Africans and foreigners alike. It is surrounded by nature and marine reserves and its beach is perfect for any type of water sports.

## ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS



### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

### PHOTOS & STORIES SEARCH

**If you've ever thought you can take better pictures than the brochures or have a great travel story and want to see yourself in print, then we're looking for you.** If you've captured a great moment on tour, whether it's of the wildlife, local people, landscape or life on the road why not enter our monthly photographic competition starting in 2009. Not only do we give away a monthly prize, you may also see your photos published in a future brochure or on our website. We are also on the lookout for stories of life on the road, the funny, exhilarating, moving or simply unforgettable things you did on tour. We publish the best stories on the Tales from the Road section of our website. Send your photos or stories to [acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com](mailto:acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com)

Photos should be in digital format & good resolution (max 6 pics per person) and labelled with the location of where the photos were taken. Meanwhile if you have a story or anecdote about your tour (up to 400 words) it needn't be word perfect, we'd love to hear about it.

**Legalities:** You, the photographer/author, retain copyright of all images & words submitted but we reserve the right to use of them for Acacia brochures, promotions & advertising.

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